



NICK FURY, AGENT OF...



SHIELD

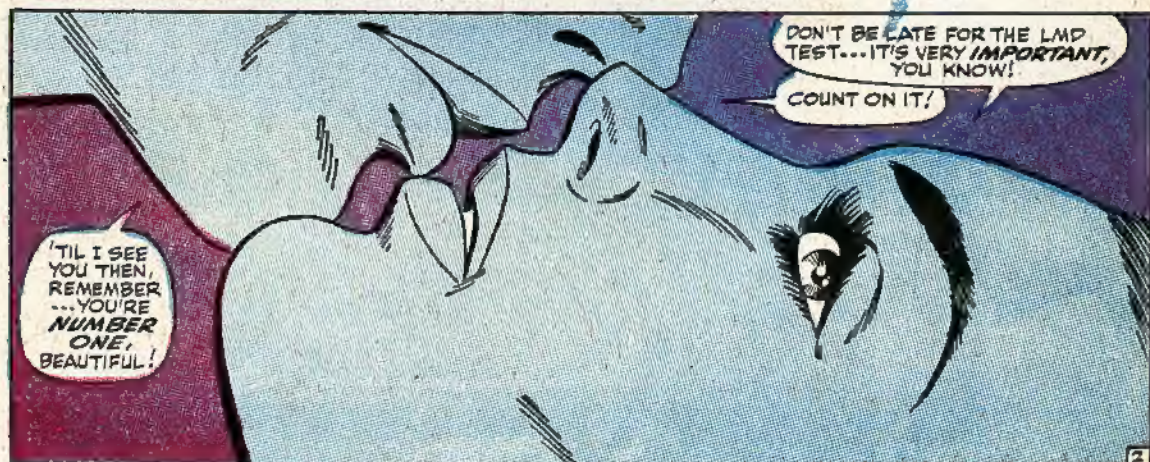
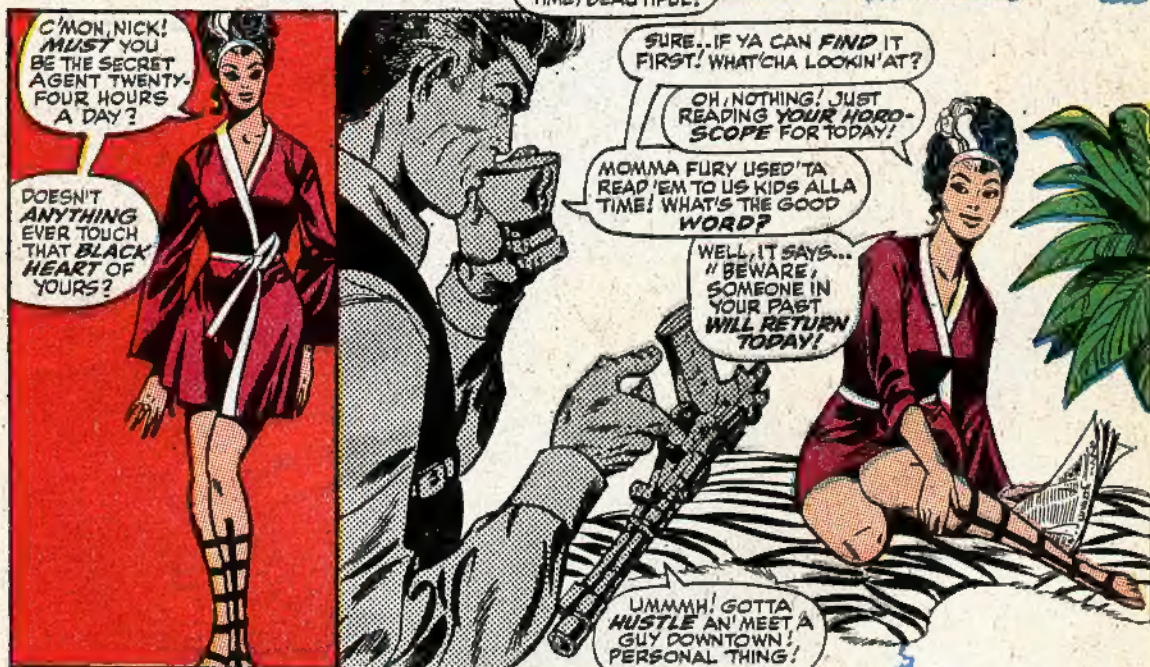
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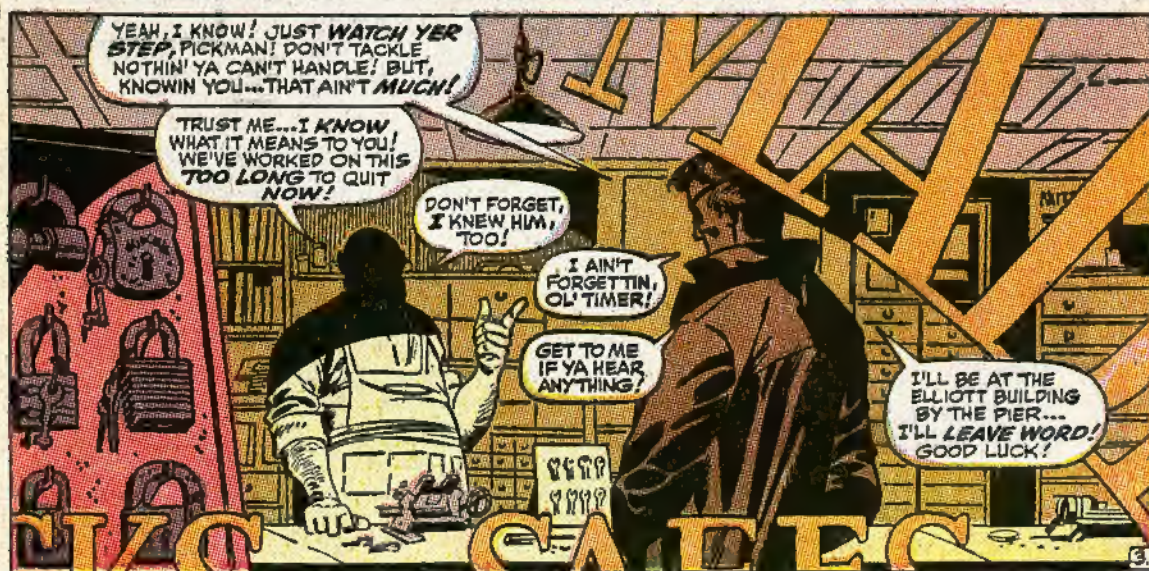
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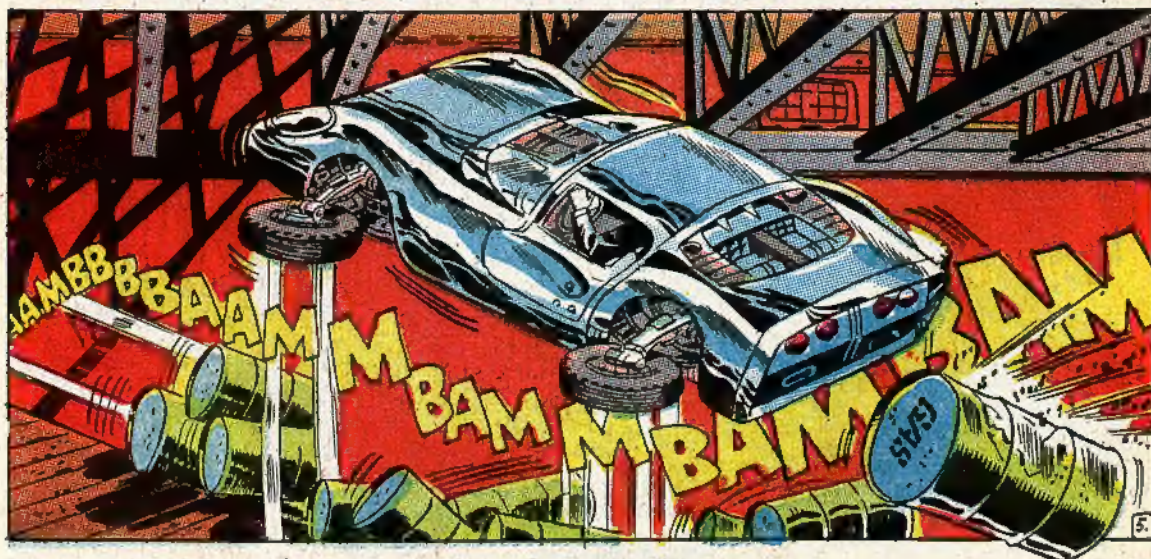
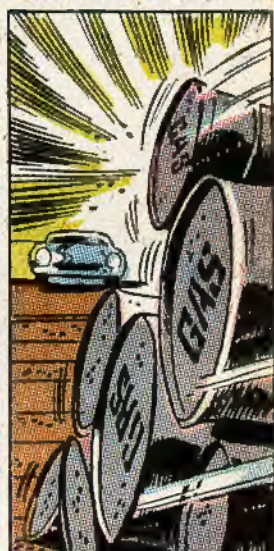
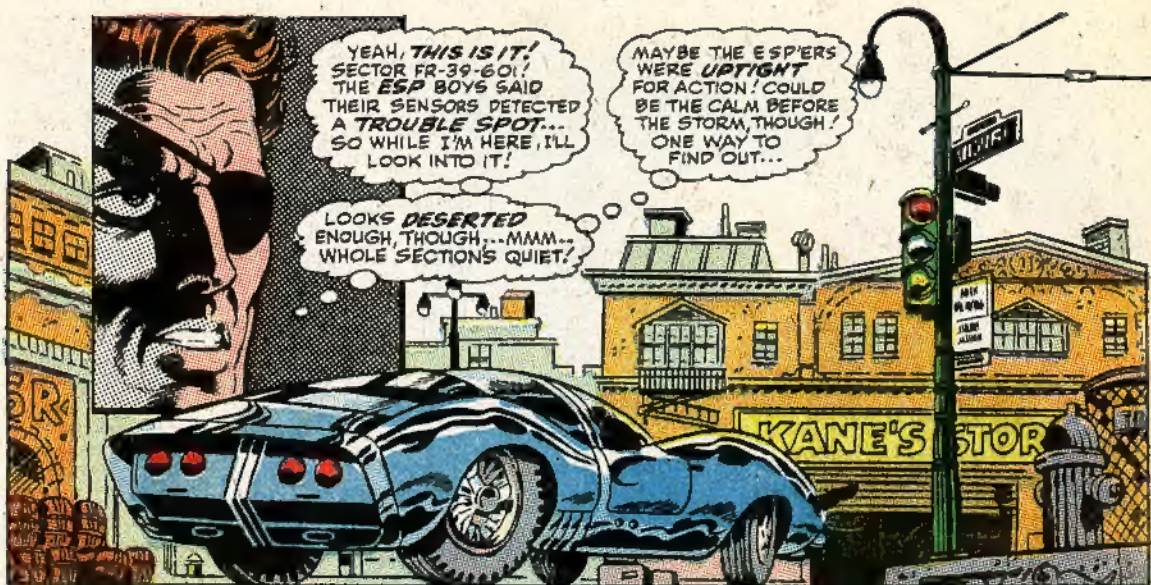




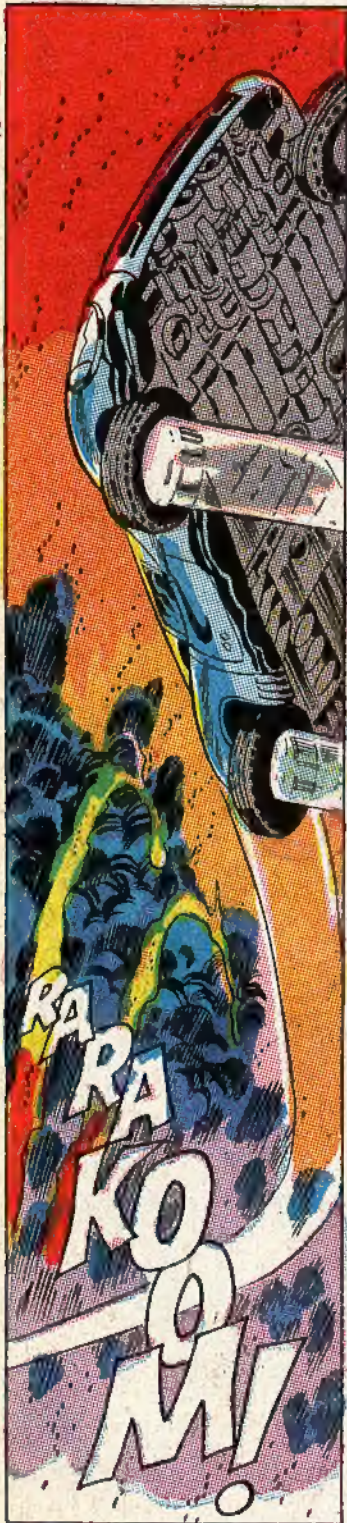
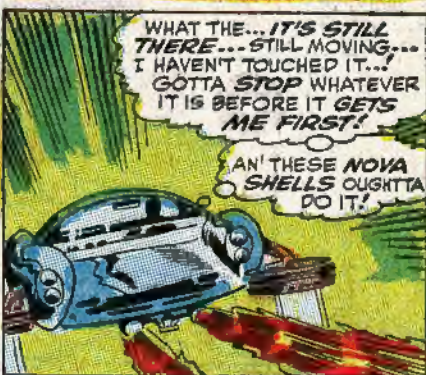
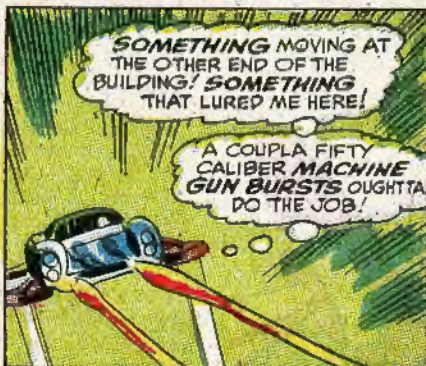
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AND, MOMENTS LATER,
THE SHIELD RAMROD DEPARTS
IN HIS SPECIAL-DESIGN
HIGH-POWERED **FERRARI
330/P4 BERLINETTA**,
HEADING BACK TO THE
BARBER SHOP ENTRANCE
OF SHIELD HEADQUARTERS!
THEN, WHILE EN ROUTE, A CALL
IS RECEIVED ON THE CAR'S
VID-COM SYSTEM! SWITCHING
ON A **PARALLEL WAVE
AUDIO-JAMMER** DEVICE
TO PREVENT **INTERCEPTION**,
HE LOCKS THE SIGNAL INTO
HIS PRIVATE CIRCUIT! A
NAMELESS OPERATOR KNOWN
ONLY AS **CODE NAME
MOTHER** CONNECTS FURY
WITH THE **ESP CHAMBER**
...CITADEL OF THE INCREDIBLE
COMMUNICATOR BEAM!
OPERATED BY A **TRIO OF
TELEPATHIC TECHNOS**
WHO SEEK OUT DANGER
BEYOND THE REALM
OF MERE PHYSICAL
CAPABILITIES, THEY
PROBE THE UNKNOWN
IN A NEVER-ENDING
SEARCH FOR
EMBRYONIC
PERIL BY SHEER
**MIND-EXPANDING
POWER ALONE!**
THE MESSAGE IS
RELAYED...A **BLIP**
ON THE HUGE
HALLUCINIGENATOR
SCREEN...POSSIBLE
DANGER AREA...
CHECK THE LOCATIONS
ACROSS TOWN!



BARELY ESCAPING THE RAMPAGING GAS DRUMS, FURY'S CAR SOARS UPWARD, POWERED BY A HIGHLY MANEUVERABLE SET OF VORTEX BEAM DEVICES IN THE WHEEL RIMS... JUST MISSING THE SEARING HAVOC RIPPING THRU THE BUILDING, AN EXPLOSIVE TEMPEST BILLOWING OUT TOWARD THE FLEEING VEHICLE...



SUDDENLY, THE HOVERING AIR-CAR IS JOLTED BY A FANTASTIC WAVE OF FORCE... THEN THE DYNAMIC DIRECTOR OF SHIELD SEES THE AWESOME FIGURE THAT WAITS AHEAD TO CONFRONT HIM... [6]

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...A MALEVOLENT FIGURE THAT SEEMS TO SHIMMER WITH A FEVERISH SCINTILLA OF DEADLY COSMIC ENERGY...





THEN, A SINISTER **METAMORPHOSIS** OCCURS, AS UNWORLDLY **BANDS** OF PULSATING COLOR SWEEP ACROSS THE FACE OF THE **SPECTRAL VILLAIN**...COLORS EVER-SHIFTING, FLICKERING, CHANGING, TWISTING, FUSING IN SHAPE AND SHADOW UNTIL STRANGE FEATURES BEGIN TO FASHION...FASHION INTO THE FORM OF A FACE **NOT UNFAMILIAR** TO THE UNSEING EYES OF **NICK FURY!** THERE, STANDING BEFORE HIM, A MAN HE THOUGHT DEAD, YET SOMEHOW **STILL ALIVE**... THE POWERFUL, STYGIAN FIGURE OF **SCORPIO**... PULLING THE FALLEN HERO FROM THE TANGLED AND TWISTED WRECKAGE AS A **HAWK** WOULD PLUCK A MOUSE FROM HIS BURROW...

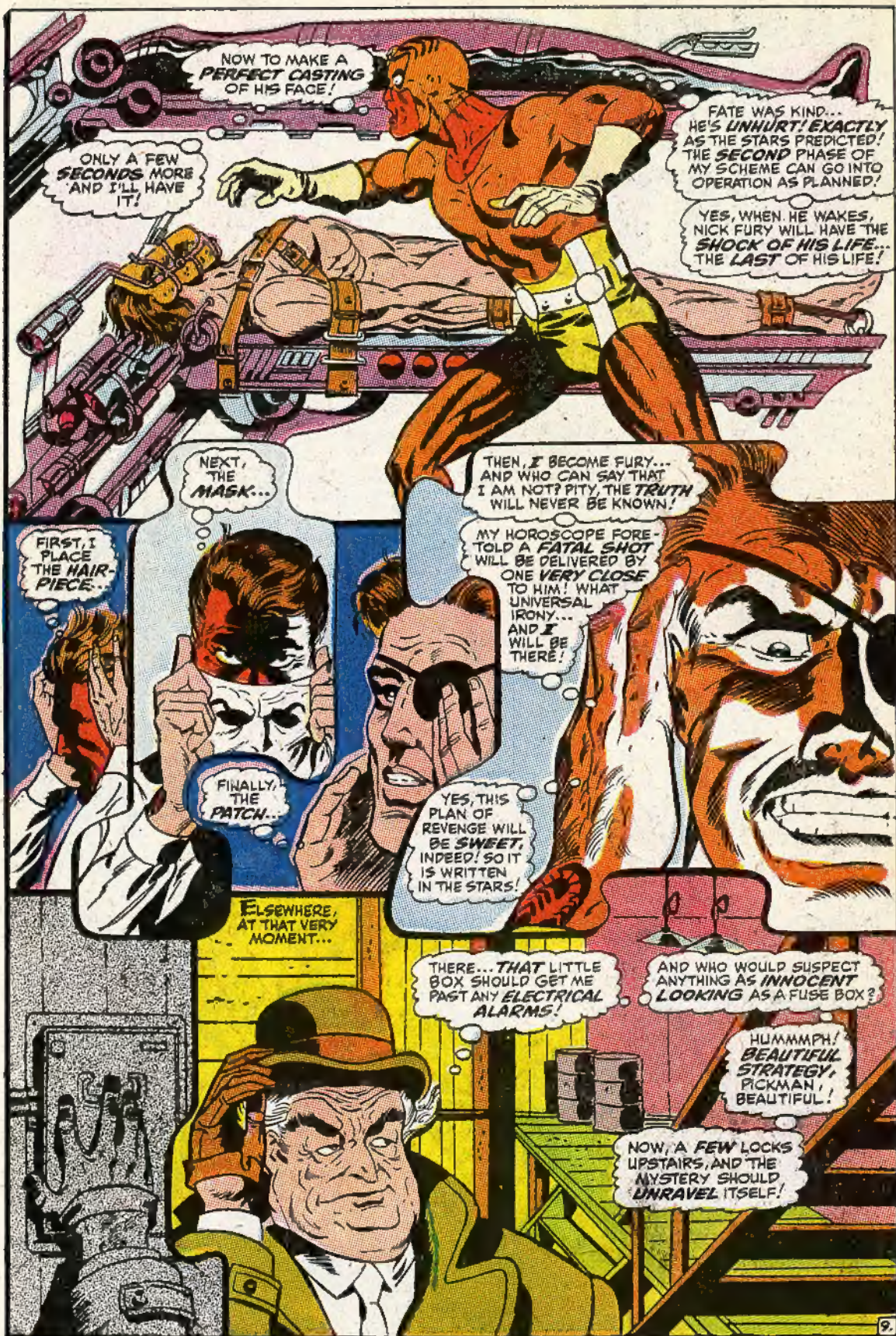
SO, WE MEET AGAIN! OF COURSE YOU THOUGHT YOU'D SEEN THE LAST OF ME...
HARDLY!

I ESCAPED AFTER MY KEY TO THE ZODIAC PROTECTED ME WITH **SOLAR FORCE** WHEN MY SHIP FELL AND BURNED, JUST AS IT CAUSED YOUR CAR TO CRASH NOW!

YOU SHOULD HAVE **NEEDED** THE WARNING YOUR HOROSCOPE CAST FOR YOU TODAY!

UNFORTUNATE, INDEED, FOR YOU! YOU SEE, MY **OWN** CYCLE IS HIGH...TODAY IS DESTINED TO BE OUR **FINAL MEETING!**





NOW TO MAKE A
PERFECT CASTING
OF HIS FACE!

ONLY A FEW
SECONDS MORE
AND I'LL HAVE
IT!

FATE WAS KIND...
HE'S **UNHURT!** EXACTLY
AS THE STARS PREDICTED!
THE **SECOND** PHASE OF
MY SCHEME CAN GO INTO
OPERATION AS PLANNED!

YES, WHEN HE WAKES,
NICK FURY WILL HAVE THE
SHOCK OF HIS LIFE...
THE **LAST** OF HIS LIFE!

NEXT,
THE
MASK...

FIRST, I
PLACE
THE **HAIR-
PIECE...**

FINALLY,
THE
PATCH...

THEN, I BECOME FURY...
AND WHO CAN SAY THAT
I AM NOT? PITY, THE **TRUTH**
WILL NEVER BE KNOWN!

MY HOROSCOPE FORE-
TOLD A **FATAL SHOT**
WILL BE DELIVERED BY
ONE **VERY CLOSE**
TO HIM! WHAT
UNIVERSAL
IRONY...
AND I
WILL BE
THERE!

YES, THIS
PLAN OF
REVENGE
WILL
BE **SWEET**,
INDEED! SO IT
IS WRITTEN
IN THE STARS!

ELSEWHERE,
AT THAT VERY
MOMENT...

THERE... **THAT LITTLE**
BOX SHOULD GET ME
PAST ANY **ELECTRICAL**
ALARMS!

AND WHO WOULD SUSPECT
ANYTHING AS **INNOCENT**
LOOKING AS A FUSE BOX?

HUMMMPH!
BEAUTIFUL
STRATEGY,
PICKMAN,
BEAUTIFUL!

NOW, A FEW LOCKS
UPSTAIRS, AND THE
MYSTERY SHOULD
UNRAVEL ITSELF!

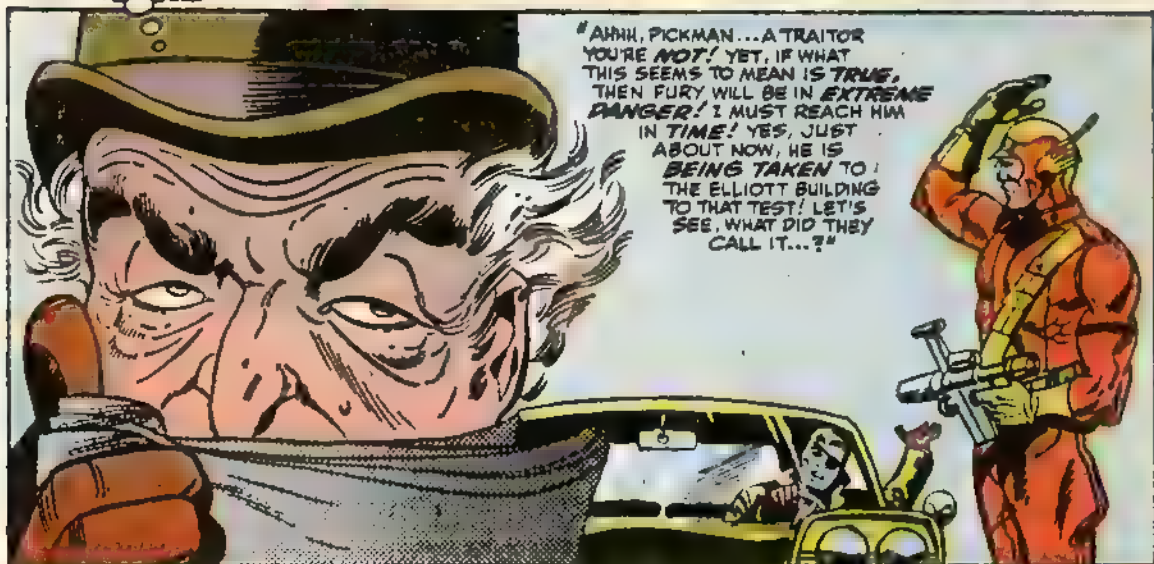


HUMPHH!... SHIELD DATA BY THE 70N! THIS COULD BE WORTH A SMALL FORTUNE TO THE OTHER SIDE!

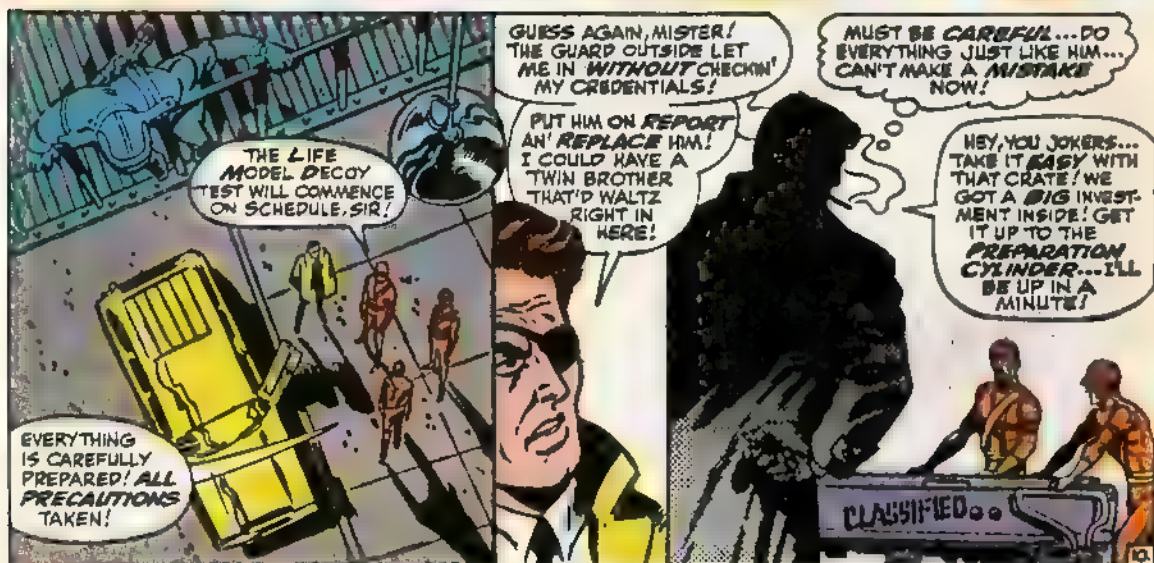
AHH, YES... WELL DONE, PICKMAN! IN THE HANDS OF ANYONE ELSE, THESE TOOLS WOULD BE USELESS!

TOO BAD THESE PERFORMANCES MUST GO UNNOTICED... BUT ANONYMITY CAN BE A BLESSING, ESPECIALLY IN THIS LINE OF WORK!

I TRUST THIS WILL GIVE FURY THE ANSWER HE'S BEEN SEEKING THESE MANY YEARS!



"AHH, PICKMAN... A TRAITOR YOU'RE NOT! YET, IF WHAT THIS SEEMS TO MEAN IS TRUE, THEN FURY WILL BE IN EXTREME DANGER! I MUST REACH HIM IN TIME! YES, JUST ABOUT NOW, HE IS BEING TAKEN TO THE ELLIOTT BUILDING TO THAT TEST! LET'S SEE, WHAT DID THEY CALL IT...?"



GUESS AGAIN, MISTER! THE GUARD OUTSIDE LET ME IN WITHOUT CHECKIN' MY CREDENTIALS!

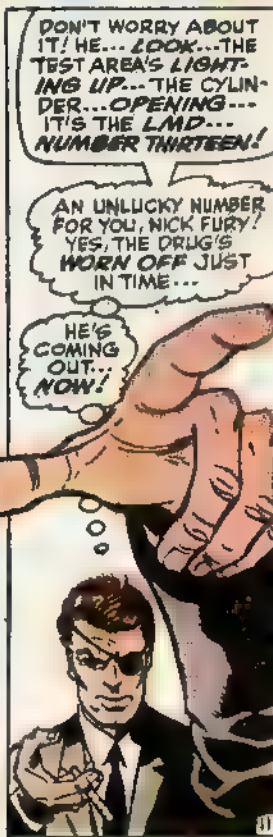
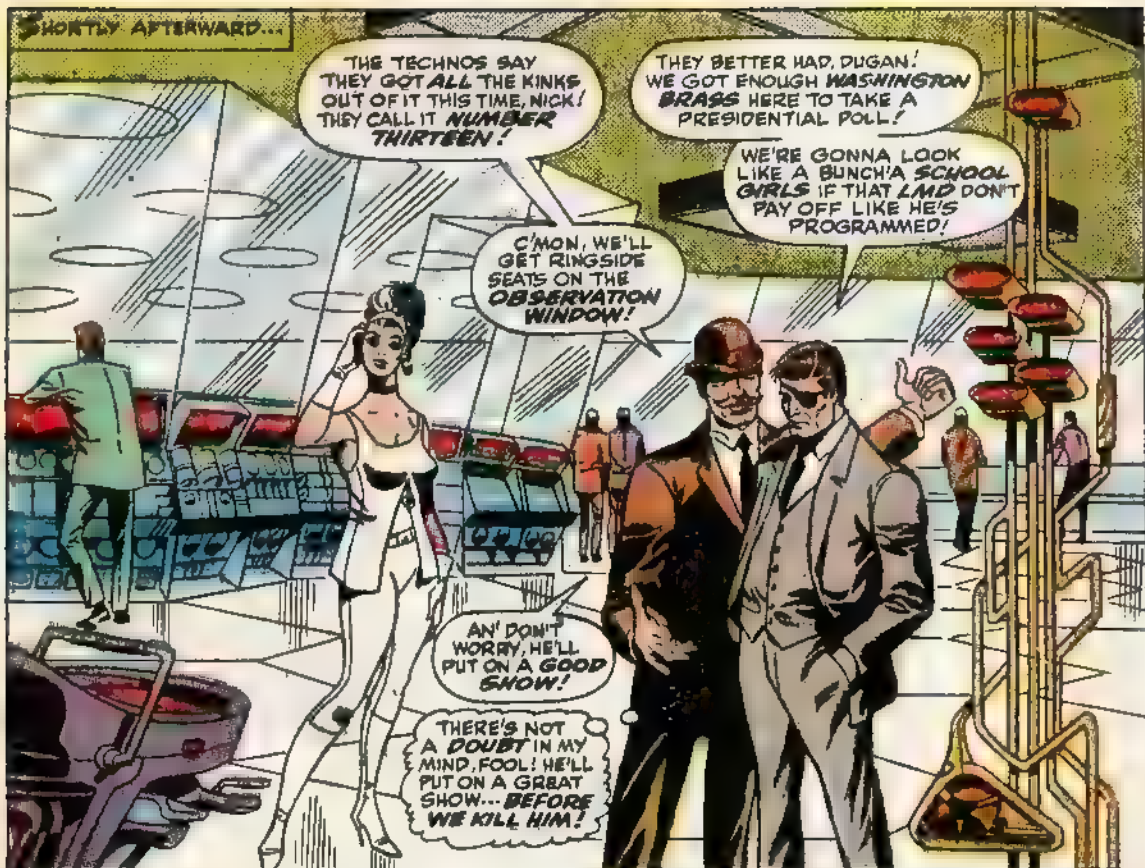
PUT HIM ON REPORT AN' REPLACE HIM! I COULD HAVE A TWIN BROTHER THAT'D WALTZ RIGHT IN HERE!

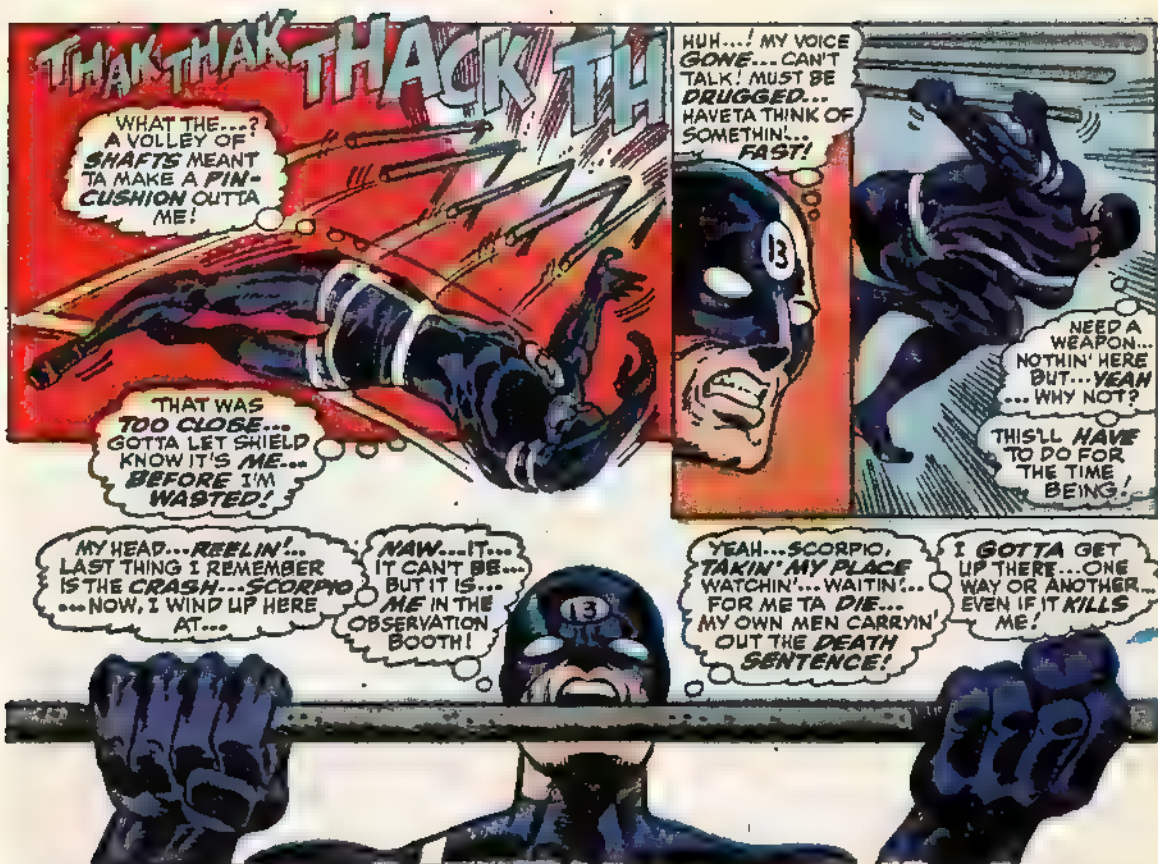
MUST BE CAREFUL... DO EVERYTHING JUST LIKE HIM... CAN'T MAKE A MISTAKE NOW!

HEY, YOU JOKERS... TAKE IT EASY WITH THAT CRATE! WE GOT A BIG INVESTMENT INSIDE! GET IT UP TO THE PREPARATION CYLINDER... I'LL BE UP IN A MINUTE!

EVERYTHING IS CAREFULLY PREPARED! ALL PRECAUTIONS TAKEN!

CLASSIFIED





THAK THAK THACK TH

WHAT THE...?
A VOLLEY OF
SHAFTS MEANT
TA MAKE A PIN-
CUSHION OUTTA
ME!

THAT WAS
TOO CLOSE...
GOTTA LET SHIELD
KNOW IT'S ME...
BEFORE I'M
WASTED!

HUH...! MY VOICE
GONE... CAN'T
TALK! MUST BE
DRUGGED...
HAVETA THINK OF
SOMETHIN'...
FAST!

NEED A
WEAPON...
NOTHIN' HERE
BUT... YEAH
... WHY NOT?

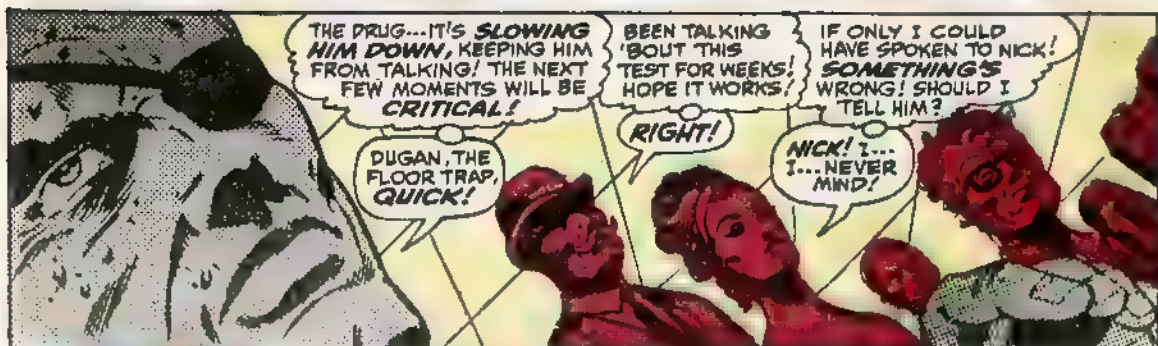
THIS'LL HAVE
TO DO FOR
THE TIME
BEING!

MY HEAD... REELIN'...
LAST THING I REMEMBER
IS THE CRASH... SCORPIO
... NOW, I WIND UP HERE
AT...

NAW... IT...
IT CAN'T BE...
BUT IT IS...
ME IN THE
OBSERVATION
BOOTH!

YEAH... SCORPIO,
TAKIN' MY PLACE
WATCHIN'... WAITIN'...
FOR ME TA DIE...
MY OWN MEN CARRYIN'
OUT THE DEATH
SENTENCE!

I GOTTA GET
UP THERE... ONE
WAY OR ANOTHER...
EVEN IF IT KILLS
ME!



THE DRUG... IT'S SLOWING
HIM DOWN, KEEPING HIM
FROM TALKING! THE NEXT
FEW MOMENTS WILL BE
CRITICAL!

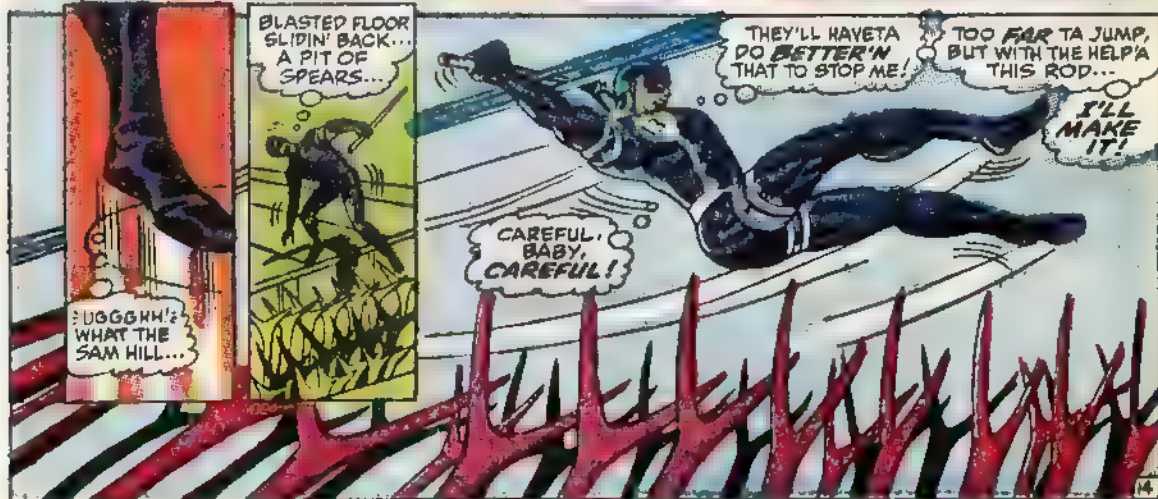
BEEN TALKING
'BOUT THIS
TEST FOR WEEKS!
HOPE IT WORKS!

IF ONLY I COULD
HAVE SPOKEN TO NICK!
SOMETHING'S
WRONG! SHOULD I
TELL HIM?

DUGAN, THE
FLOOR TRAP,
QUICK!

RIGHT!

NICK! I...
I... NEVER
MIND!



BLASTED FLOOR
SLIDIN' BACK...
A PIT OF
SPEARS...

CAREFUL,
BABY,
CAREFUL!

THEY'LL HAVETA
DO BETTER'N
THAT TO STOP ME!

TOO FAR TA JUMP,
BUT WITH THE HELP'A
THIS ROD...

I'LL
MAKE
IT!

UGGGHH!
WHAT THE
SAM HILL...

YEAH! GOT PAST THAT OKAY! KEEP GOIN' FURY, YA GOTTA SET UP THERE...YA GOTTA WIN...YA...

YEEOWW!

NOT YET, VAL! IT'S GETTING UP...TO TAKE MORE PUNISHMENT BEFORE IT FINALLY QUITS!

LOOK, IT JUMPED ON THE ELECTRIFIED FLOOR GRID! ITS SYSTEM MUST BE STUNNED!

IT IS... THE LMD'S FALLING OVER... THE CHARGE RUINED IT! THE TEST IS OVER!

...AND THAT WON'T BE LONG NOW! I'LL HAVE WON THE GAME!

UGH! THAT JOLT NEARLY TOOK ME OUT! CAN'T LET IT STOP ME!

CAN'T LET NOTHIN' STOP ME...NOT EVEN THIS MAZE! MEBBE IF I USE THE SHAFT, IT'LL SHOW ME WHAT'S SAFE AN' WHAT AIN'T!

NO MATTER... I GOTTA GET TO HIM... I GOTTA!

HEY, IT MOVES JUST LIKE YOU, NICK! BUT, WHY NOT? IT'S BEEN PROGRAMMED WITH YOUR OWN REACTIONS...YOUR OWN BRAIN AND REFLEX TAPES!

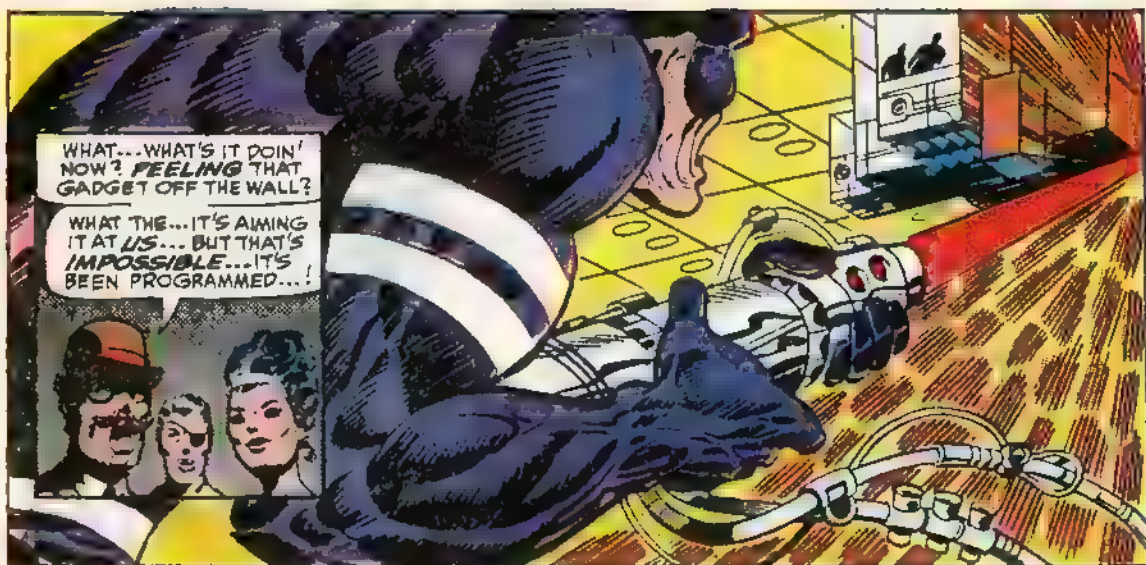
HOW MANY MORE TRAPS HAVE I GOT AHEAD'A ME?

CAN'T TAKE THE TIME TA TACKLE 'EM ALL!

NEED ANOTHER WEAPON...A BIGGER ONE TA DO THE JOB!

AN' THIS LITTLE LASER DEVICE SHOULD BE JUST THE THING!

AN' IF I GET IT OFFA THE WALL, LOOK OUT, SCORPIO! ALL HELL'S GONNA BUST LOOSE!



WHAT...WHAT'S IT DOIN' NOW? **FEELING** THAT GADGET OFF THE WALL?

WHAT THE...IT'S AIMING IT AT **US**... BUT THAT'S **IMPOSSIBLE**...IT'S BEEN PROGRAMMED...!

THE **DRUG**! GAVE HIM MUST BE **WEARING** OFF TOO SOON!
HE SHOULD HAVE **DIED** IN THAT **ELECTRIC MAZE**!
NOW, I MUST BEGIN **ANOTHER** PHASE OF MY PLAN!

SCORPIO OVERLOOKS **NOTHING**!
NOW, IT'S UP TO ME! I MUST EXECUTE **FURY PERSONALLY**!

HE USED THE **LASER** TO **LURE** ME OUT HERE... BUT HE **FORGOT** ONE THING!

THE **FIELD** OF **BATTLE** IS **MINE**!

WITH ALL OF **SHIELD** **STANDING** BY, HE **CANNOT** **SURVIVE**! WHAT **IRONY**...A **DOZEN** **GUNS** **READY** TO **KILL** HIM SHOULD **MINE** **FAIL**! **BEAUTIFUL**!

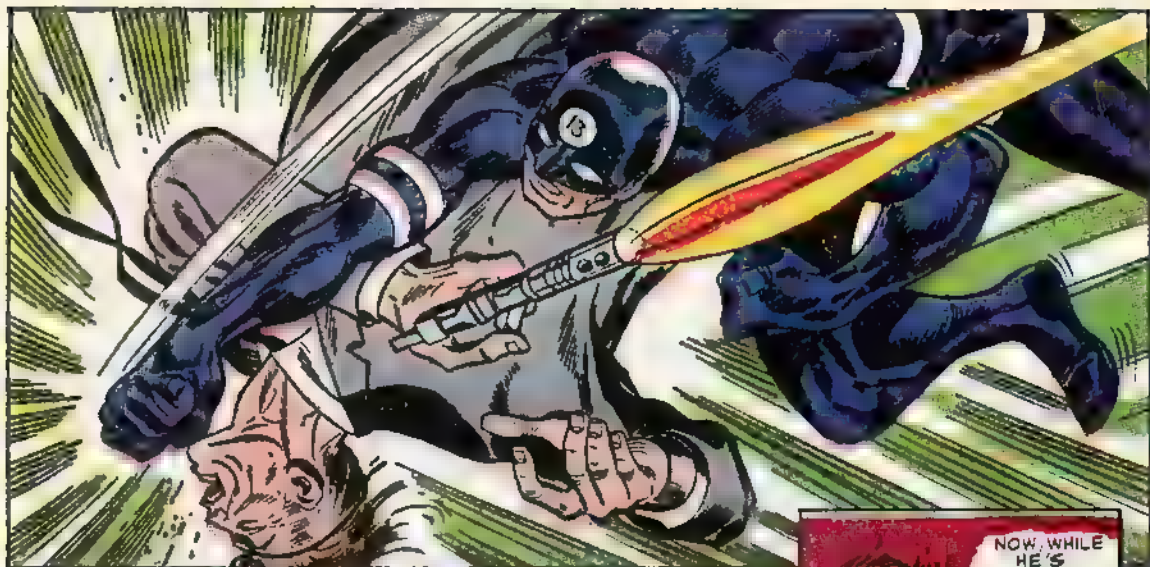
YES, NOW I **REMEMBER**! THE **HOROSCOPE** **PREDICTED** THE **FATAL** **SHOT** **WOULD** **BE** **FIRED** **BY** **SOMEONE** **ELSE**!

I SAW HIM A **MOMENT** **AGO**... BUT **WHERE** **IS** **HE**?

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE...
NAW... WE NEVER HEARD OF YA, **PICKMAN**! **NOBODY** **LEFT** **WORD**...**NOBODY**!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' AROUND HERE ANYWAY, **BUDDY**?
NO... I CAN'T TELL THEM! IT'S TOO **FANTASTIC**... THEY'D **NEVER** **BELIEVE** **ME**!

HMM...WASH. FORGIVE ME, **GENTLEMEN**! I MUST BE **MISTAKEN**!
PARDON THE **INTRUSION**!
G'WAN... **BEAT** IT, **OL' TIMER**!
YEAH! **CHECK** THE **NEXT** **BLOCK**, **POP**!

HMM... I MUST DO **SOMETHING**! **AHHHHH**! OF **COURSE**! **NO** **ONE** **KNOWS** THIS **AREA** **BETTER** **THAN** I **DO**!
THESE **OLD** **BUILDINGS** **HAVE** **MANY** **WAYS** **TO** **GET** **INSIDE**! BUT, I **TRUST** **NICHOLAS** **IS** **ALL** **RIGHT**!



AND INSIDE, FURY
THROWS A STAGGER-
ING PUNCH THAT
HURLS BOTH
FIGURES TO THE
FLOOR BELOW
THE CATWALK...



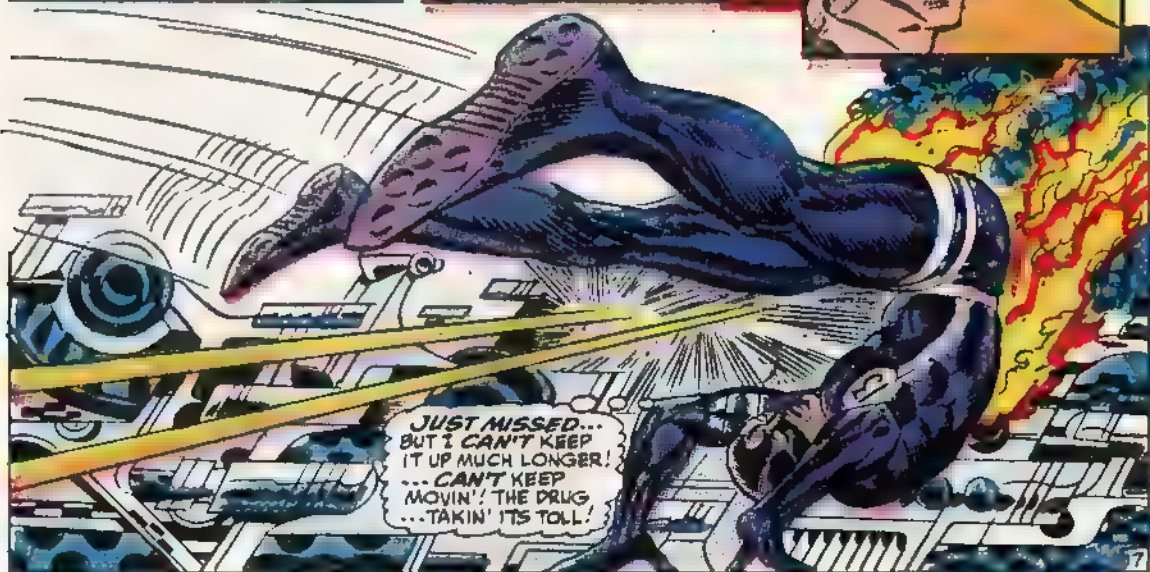
"UGH!! THAT FALL...
FEELS LIKE IT BUSTED
A COUPLA RIBS...
GOTTA GET THAT
GUN BEFORE...
ARRRGH!!"



NOW, WHILE
HE'S
STUNNED...
NOW, WHILE
I HAVE THE
CHANCE!

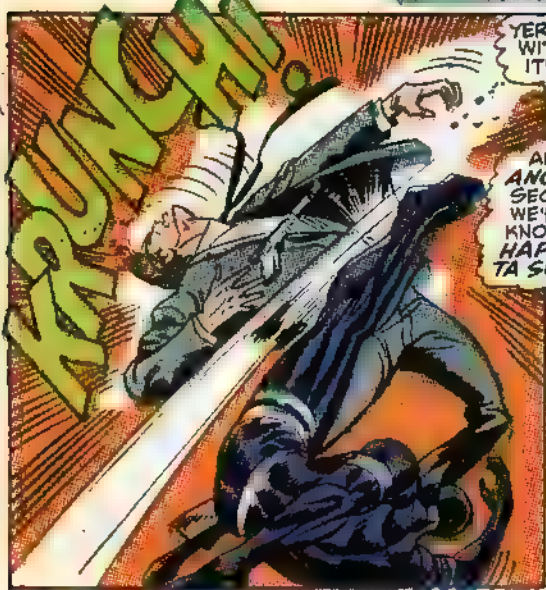
THEN, I'LL
TELL THEM
I HAD TO
STOP THE
LMD LIKE
THIS!

THEY WON'T
KNOW THE
TRUTH
UNTIL LATER!

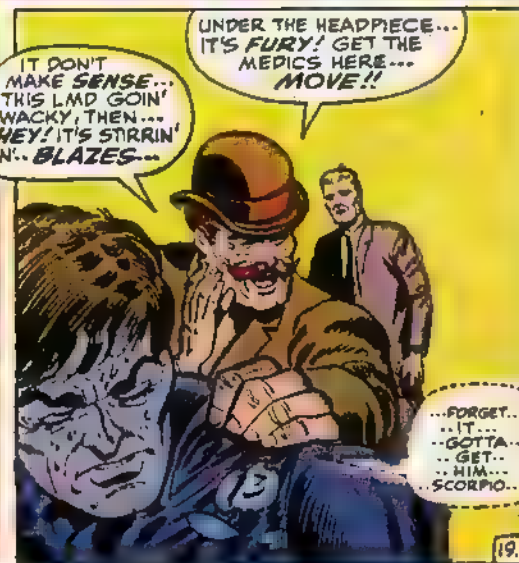
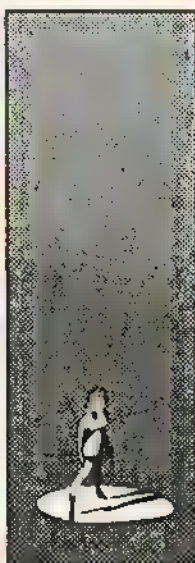


JUST MISSED...
BUT I CAN'T KEEP
IT UP MUCH LONGER!
...CAN'T KEEP
MOVIN'! THE DRUG
...TAKIN' ITS TOLL!

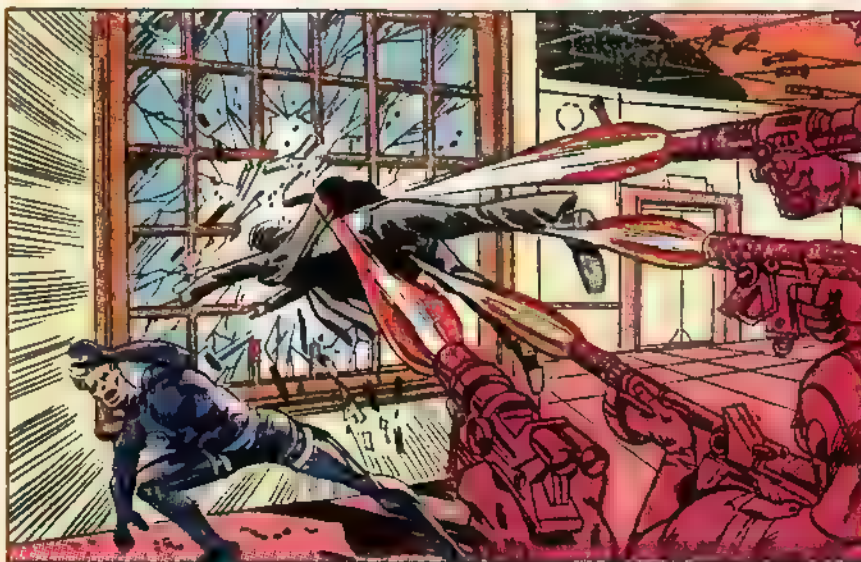
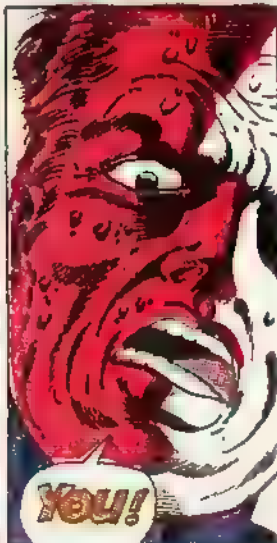
AND, IN THE SPECTATOR OBSERVATION **BOOTHS** ABOVE THE TWO FIGHTING PROTAGONISTS, ANOTHER COURSE OF ACTION IS ABOUT TO OCCUR... AS VAL **DRAW**S A WEAPON AND AIMS **UNERRINGLY** AT HER TARGET...



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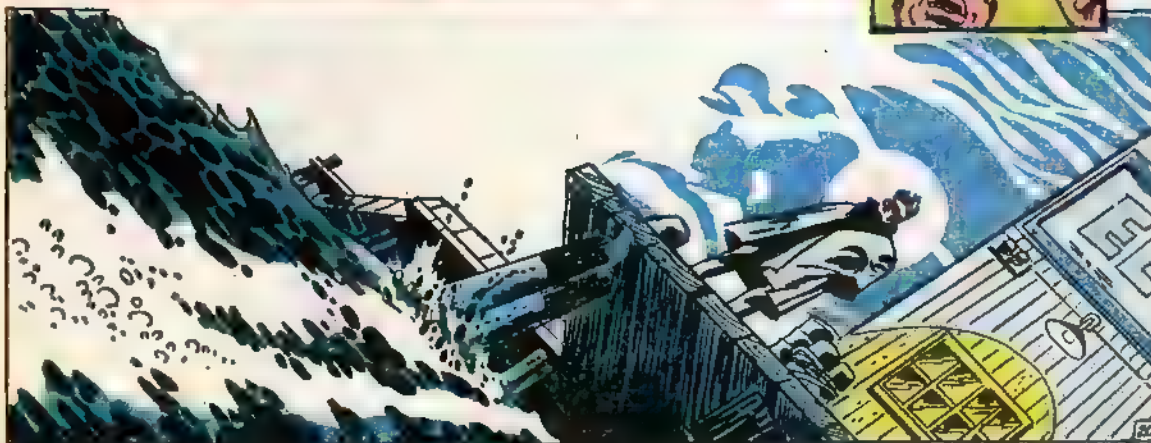
THEN, EVERY MUSCLE AND FIBER OF HIS BODY ACHING, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE AGENT OF SHIELD PURSUES THE FLEEING FIGURE!



LOOK, HE'S PLUNGING INTO THE RIVER BELOW!

SO?? HE'S GOT ENOUGH LEAD IN HIM TO SINK STRAIGHT TO THE BOTTOM!

YEAH! UNLESS THE CURRENT CARRIES HIM AWAY FIRST!



BUT, NO BODY WAS EVER FOUND! INDEED, IT SEEMED THAT THE VERY TIDE ITSELF HAD CLEANSSED THE HARBOR OF EVIL IN ITS OWN MYSTERIOUS WAY, SWALLOWING IT UP SO THAT **NONE MAY EVER KNOW** WHAT HAPPENED TO SCORPIO! YET, **ONE MAN** HAD TO KNOW AND WAITED, WATCHING THRU NIGHT'S LONELY EBON HOURS, UNTIL THE CRIMSON DAWN MELTED THE EBBING BLACKNESS! WHAT **STRANGE SECRET** NOW LAY LOCKED IN HIS HEART...WHAT REVELATION HAD CAUSED THE TAUT, GRIM VISAGE HE NOW WORE LIKE A MASK? WAS THE SEARCH OVER OR **HAD IT ONLY BEGUN?** FURY ASKED HIMSELF THE QUESTION A **THOUSAND TIMES** OVER AGAIN...WOULD HE EVER KNOW?...**WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SCORPIO?**

ITEMS OF INCREDIBLE IMPORT TO ILLUMINATE YOUR INTEREST, INVIGORATE YOUR IMAGINATION, AND INTOXICATE YOUR ID!

ITEM! Hey, didja see the great plug we got in a recent ish of TV GUIDE? If not, don't despair! It went like this: "Marvel has become champ of the comic-book game — 50,000,000 books a year, with a high number of them selling to college kids." — There was lots more, but you might think we're bragging! So, we'll just end with a tinninnabulation! "Thanx" to the guys 'n gals at the Guide... 'cause you know how modest we are!

ITEM! Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the tremendous new team of Genial GENE COLAN and Tender TOM PALMER as they join forces to illustrate DR. STRANGE. If ever a penciller and inker were born for each other! They're dynamite! And the same goes for Gentle JOHNNY CRAIG whom, in a moment of sheer inspiration, we've assigned to ink the power-packed penciling of Lonesome GEORGE TUSKA on IRON MAN! And, when DR. DOOM finally stars in his own strip, wait'll you see who the artists are! Yep, the ol' Bullpen's always been crawling with talent, but right about now we're threatening to burst at the seams! So, just keep watching, wondrous ones!

ITEM! When we get a letter like this, we can't just toss it away. So, here's where we share it with you — "Dear Stan: Any Marvel maniacs who'd like to write a G.I. over here can address ANY LONELY SOLDIER c/o USO, APO SAN FRANCISCO 96243. — Sincerely, Sgt. Mike Steiner NA12620949." 'Nuff said!

ITEM! In case you've been wondering, of SPIDEY and the ever-lovin' FANTASTIC FOUR are still causing a riot among the ratings on nationwide TV — to say nothing of SUBBY, THOR, GREEN SKIN, CAP, and SHELL-HEAD! And, if the flood of toys and games produced for us by LOUIS MARX, OHIO ART, WESTERN PUBLISHING, and KENNER TOYS, just to name a few, doesn't send our younger Believers into orbit, we'll never visit Yancy Street again! — And by the way, just a reminder to check our merchandising page for those fabulous far-out plastic pillows of Thor and Spidey — and to latch onto the latest, greatest ish of Marvel's glitzy gag mag — GROOVY — 3!

ITEM! Wanna know the name of our newest writer? He's none other than Artful ARNOLD DRAKE, the loveable King-size leprechaun who combines his own unique dramatic quality with a fabulous flair for biting satire and crafty characterization! Arnie is certain to make his mark in the hallowed halls of Marvel — if we can keep him away from those endless movies he so dearly loves to writel! Welcome aboard, A. D. — it figgers to be a rollickin' ride all the way!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel.com Mags On Sale Right Now!

SGT. FURY SPECIAL #4: Still on sale... if your luck's holding out! To convince you that this one'll be a war-mag classic, we need only tell that the subject is... The Battle of the Bulge! 'Nuff said!

SILVER SURFER #2: Marvel's newest and most daringly dramatic superhero returns to thrill you again as he battles the startling occupants of a fearsome flying saucer.

FANTASTIC FOUR #79: Suspense mounts on suspense as the mighty Thing faces the one foe he cannot fight — or can he? And what about the pregnant Sue Storm? Don't dare miss it!

SPIDER-MAN #65: A totally different type of Spidey adventure, as the world's favorite webhead must protect his secret identity

STAN'S SOAPBOX

This month we're gonna yak about something that has nothing to do with our mags! Over the years we've received a zillion letters asking for the Bullpen's opinion about such diverse subjects as Viet Nam, civil rights, the war on poverty, and the upcoming election. We're fantasmagorically flattered that our opinion would matter to you, but here's the hang-up: there ISN'T any unanimous Bullpen opinion about anything, except possibly mother love and apple pie! Take the election, for example. Some of us are staunch Democrats, and others dyed-in-the-wool Republicans. As for Yours Truly and a few others, we prefer to judge the person, rather than the party line. That's why we seek to avoid editorializing about controversial issues — not because we haven't our opinions, but rather because we share the same diversity of opinion as Americans everywhere. But, we'd like to go on record about one vital issue — we believe that Man has a divine destiny, and an awesome responsibility — the responsibility of treating all who share this wondrous world of ours with tolerance and respect — judging each fellow human on his own merit, regardless of race, creed, or color. That we agree on — and we'll never rest until it becomes a fact, rather than just a cherished dream!

Excelsior,
Smiley.

tity — while becoming embroiled in a deadly jailbreak!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES #16: Just as we promised you — a full-length blockbuster of mystery and action, starring the all-new Phantom Eagle! Plus, the usual mildly magnificent mish-mash of masked misanthropes!

AVENGERS #56: He's back — at last. Cap temporarily rejoins the Avengers to journey back into time and learn the true fate of Bucky Barnes! This one's a shocker!

AVENGERS SPECIAL #2: In answer to an awesome avalanche of requests! The new Avengers battle to the death with the original Avengers... in a world they never made! An all-new, once-a-year wonder!

X-MEN #47: The beginning of new lives for Cyclops and Marvel Girl — and a senses-shattering new villain called... Computo! It's a double-dose of mutant magic as only Marvel can sock it to you!

DAREDEVIL #44: There are many things we could tell you about this sensational ish to send you into orbit! But, the thrilling theme alone should do the trick — DD's wanted for murder!

MIGHTY THOR #156: Ragnarok — the destruction of the entire universe — is getting closer by the second — and even the Thunder God seems powerless to halt it! This one's a classic in our own time!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #106: An epic so different, we hardly know how to describe it! It involves a new variety of villains — a new, surprising locale, and a new type of action! Not for the timid!

INCREDIBLE HULK #108: If you think ol' Green Skin is in a jam just 'cause Col. Yuri Brevlov's hot on his trail... just wait'll the malevolent Mandarin explodes upon the scene! It's dynamite!

HULK SPECIAL #1: To celebrate his first sizzlin' special, who could possibly battle

our jolly juggernaut to a standstill — or worse? How about the ever-new, ever-surprising — Inhumans?

IRON MAN #6: Talk about cataclysmic comebacks... wait'll you see the rip-roarin' return of the Crusher... and what it does to Shell-Head! We guarantee it'll blow your mind!

SUB-MARINER #6: Namor slugs it out with the titanic Tiger Shark for the throne of Atlantis — while Destiny waits in the wings! After this, skin-diving may never be the same!

HOT BRAND ECHH #9: This one, too, is on sale for a second month, to make sure that no Flame-Keeper among you misses it. It's got more pages, laughs, and lunacy than ever before.

CAPTAIN MARVEL #6: How can you stop a brain-blasting baddie who possesses all the limitless power of the sun itself? You'll never forget Mar-Vell's astonishing answer!

DR. STRANGE #173: This is it! The event you thought would never take place! The dreaded Dormammu finally invades earth, and when Doc Strange tries to stop him — watch out!

SGT. FURY #58: You won't believe your baby-blues... and neither will the Howlers, when they're confronted by Hitler's Agent of 1,000 Faces! It's blood-and-guts battle action all the way!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #6: Only a desperate effort by the Leatherneck Raiders can save Australia from a daring Japanese take-over plot! You dare not miss: "Mission: Destroy The Invisible Enemy!"

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #17: The F.F., Iron Man, and Doc Strange — all in one incredible ish that will leave you begging for more! Further proof that Marvel had a better idea first!

MARVEL TALES #16: The Beetle — Tomorrow Man — Plant Man — and the sinister Serpent! (Against Spidey, Thor, the torrid Torch, and Marvel Boy, natch!) A foursome of the most senses-staggering battles since Forbush asked for a raise!

TALES OF ASGARD #1: It's true! Just to show that nobody can take mixed-up Marvel for granted, we're sockin' you with a giant-sized Thor-Asgard surprise Special, recreating the greatness and glory of the Thunder God's early days! Face it — it's a must!



DON'T YIELD, WRITE S.H.I.E.L.D.

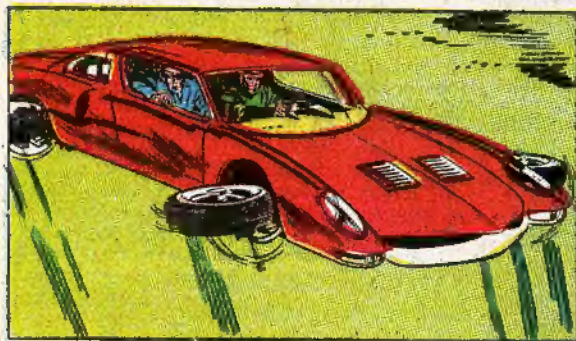
% MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 625 MADISON AVE., N.Y., N.Y. 10022

Dear Stan and Co.,

After living with and loving comic books for twenty of my 28 years, two years ago I finally got my fill of them — satiated. Oh, it was great to see the rebirth of adventure heroes, but after a while they began to appear to be much the same — if you've read one, you've read 'em all. Fortunately, I was recently reintroduced to your publications, notably SHIELD. I won't lay any more of the dripping praise on you that so many of your other readers take care of so well. Rather, I'd simply like to commend your editorial handling of page 5, SHIELD #2. In the '30 plus year history of the graphic story, few have approached such a subject with the effect Steranko achieved. The point was well made in a genuinely quiet, tasteful manner. Further, the inclusion of a Negro villain obsessed with delusions of grandeur ("No man has the right to set himself up as a god" . . . a man must do the things he thinks best.") was a uniquely masterful (or should I say MARVELOUS) touch. Centurius must return! It was also grand to see Jimmy Woo again; can we now also look forward to a revival of the most powerful villain of all time, the Yellow Claw? So long as you continue to attempt to achieve something at least a little out of the ordinary there'll be readers around who appreciate it, and I'll be one of 'em.

Ronn Foss, 45-A Laskie
San Francisco, California 94103

Stan and Jim were pleased as punch with your praise! Glad to have you back with us! Incidentally, Ronn is one of fandom's finest artists . . . what can we say but we're gratified, pal!



Dear Stan and Jim:

I am writing about AGENT OF SHIELD #2. (Oh, before I start, tell those people who complain about types of let-

ters to go and cry with Brother Forbush!) Firstly, the cover was beautiful, except, why was Centurius' armour grey and orange, while inside it was grey, yellow, and red. Secondly, the full color page with "Kong" on it was beautiful. Make more like it, and could I have a glossy, larger reprint? Thirdly, Fury is becoming far too muscular. He doesn't look good in that costume either. Finally, I tell you why Marvel has reached the top (50,000,000 books a year). You don't believe in racial strife or feel embarrassed to use a Negro character. This is, I think, the most important of many reasons. So long for now. Don't Yield, Back Forbush?

Paul Butler, 32 Bromore Crescent
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Centurius will be the start of many new Negro characters (heroes, bad guys and supporting players) in fact, now that we broke the color barrier, you'll probably see other companies getting in line, too! As for the armor being a different color, we think every villain has the right to a change of costume! Oh yeah, we'll tell Fury about the costume, Paul!

Dear Editor,

Well, here it comes, I'm gonna rave about SHIELD #2! Jim Steranko, terrific! Man, does that guy know how to illustrate. The cover was dynamite. One of the best drawn covers of the year. And the art on the inside, wow! Especially on pages 12-13. I mean that really was beautiful. When I opened up the centerfold I just couldn't believe what I saw. I just sat there looking at it, stunned. The whole network, so precisely drawn, just flipped my lid. Now that I finished raving about the art let me tell you what I think of the story. (Uh-oh, now you're gonna get it.) Well, basically it was pretty good, except for one little thing. Could you please tell me how in Sam Hill (no reference to Sgt. Fury) does Colonel Fury constantly figure out how to defeat an enemy much superior than him? I mean the law of averages has got to catch up to you sooner or later, right? For example, even the Mets win once in a while. The fantastic odds against which you put him up are really very unrealistic. So, either he loses some or calm down the opponents.

Murray Selzer, 2732 Matthews Ave.
Bronx, New York 10467

We can't agree with you, Murray! Fury didn't defeat Centurius, nor did he vanquish Scorpio in ish #1! Read 'em again and see if the endings aren't a little more realistic than most! OK? And, 'til we hear from all of you again . . . Peace, Baby!

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

R.F.O. (REAL FRANTIC ONE)—A BUYER OF AT LEAST 3 MARVEL MAGS A MONTH.

T.T.B. (TITANIC TRUE BELIEVER)—A DIVINELY-INSPIRED 'NO-PRIZE' WINNER.

Q.N.S. (QUITE 'NUFF SAYER)—A FORTUNATE FRANTIC ONE WHO'S HAD A LETTER PRINTED.

K.O.F. (KEEPER OF THE FLAME)—ONE WHO RECRUITS A NEWCOMER TO MARVEL'S ROLLICKIN' RANKS.

P.M.M. (PERMANENT MARVELITE MAXIMUS)—ANYONE POSSESSING ALL FOUR OF THE OTHER TITLES.

F.F.F. (FEARLESS FRONT FACER)—AN HONORARY TITLE BESTOWED FOR DEVOTION TO MARVEL ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

Dear Editor,

I have always regarded Agent of Shield as rather a minor strip, good for enjoyment now and again, but rarely containing any significant material. Recently, however, you have proven me wrong time and time again, first with the Yellow Claw revelation a la Doctor Doom, and now the cataclysmic craftsmanship portrayed in issue two, "So Shall Ye Reap Death!" With this latest effort, he has definitely come to a peak in his comics career, for he has outdone himself in all conceivable respects, plot, script, and artwork. "So Shall Ye Reap Death" was easily one of the most compelling dramas I have ever seen. The basic premise, scientist punishing the helpless earth for its sins, has been utilized time and time again, so that it has become almost a cliché in itself, but Mr. Steranko has managed to breathe life into the time-honored plot and emerge with a winner. In this story, Steranko has shown himself to be a master at weaving subplots together to augment the main story (this time, the film company on location, and the so-called Evolutionizer device). The death devised by the Mad Scientist of the day, bathing the earth in a rain of fire for forty days and forty nights, closely approximates an old Biblical prophesy which states that earth will be doomed three times: First by water, then by fire, then by ice. The first has, allegedly, taken place, with the flooding of the world for forty days and Noah's Ark and all, but this doom described by Centurius seems to be a fulfillment of the second prophesy, that the world would die in fire. Any comment on this? Jim Steranko's pencils and Frank Giacoia's inks once again blend together to create an eminently viewable example of the cartoonists' trade. Mr. Steranko has a strange ability to convey action without words and emotion without the use of word balloons. This is indeed a talent to be proud of, and I look forward to seeing it more and more in the future. All in all, sincere thanks for some of the most powerful reading I've yet seen. Jeff Pierce, 630 Gerona Road Stanford, California 94305

Jeff, your laudatory letter again proves that SHIELD readers are among the most literate in the comic world! The profound perceptions you've penned reflect precisely the reactions we had hoped for! Take our word for it, as long as fans like you feel this way, we'll do the best job we can to bring depth and realism to Shield!

Dear Stan and Jim:

When I finished reading "So Shall Ye Reap Death" in the second fantastic issue of NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD, I was stunned. Sure, I am used to reading great stories from the House of Ideas, but this one was something special! As usual, Jaunty Jim's artwork was out of this world. His style is somewhat similar to that of Will Eisner, who was very popular in the Golden Age of Comics. The love scene on page 7 is probably one of the finest scenes Marvel has ever depicted. As for the story itself, it was absolutely great! I like Centurius for the very same reasons I like the Silver Surfer. He was fed up with society and wanted an Earth without "... mass murder, intimidation, fear." The philosophy expressed is unique and I agree with it wholeheartedly. This yarn is a perfect example of Marvelism (the name I have given to the Marvel Philosophy). All in all issue #2 of SHIELD was truly wonderful. It proved beyond a shadow of any doubt that this is truly the Marvel Age of Literature. Until next time, may Irving Forbush never face backwards! "Nuff said!

Achille Di Bacco, 1701 Terrace Dr. West
Lake Clarke Terrace, Lake Worth, Florida 33460

And we agree with you wholeheartedly! You see, if just one Shield reader sees the world more clearly, then, we'll have fulfilled our objective!

Dear Stan and Jim,

I feel you are overlooking a few things about Marvel in your enthusiasm over "The Second Golden Age of Marvel." I have two major reasons for disliking two of your mags. SHIELD is one of your best mags except for a few drawbacks in coloring which are rapidly decreasing. Its reason for being second-rate is explained by the title "Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D." SHIELD is an organization, not one man. In the beginning you believed this, but later on after featuring mainly Nick Fury in one series you carried on. This takes away from the magazine considerably. A question: Is not SHIELD a world organization? If it is, why is it so American?

Don Plasker, 1917 Cowan Cres.
Regina, Sask., Canada

Check it again, Don! NICK FURY AGENT OF SHIELD is not an organization . . . Fury is Fury! And it is his adventures we attempt to portray, even glimpses of his personal life as well as the Shield bit! But, if readers would prefer it differently . . . write an' let us know! One final thing, Shield is an American based group dedicated to world peace . . . dig?

Dear Stan and Jim,

The really remarkable thing about Jim Steranko, when you think about it, is that he makes the unbelievable believably real, as if the unreal were an everyday occurrence. "So Shall Ye Reap . . . Death" illustrates the point quite graphically that Steranko is just that sort of writer/illustrator. If Steranko tells us that top espionage organizations subject their trainees and new members to death dealing rites over which no one would have any control, okay, they do. If Steranko says that an island exists of indescribable scientific marvels and that no one in the world knows that it exists, all right, that just must be the way that it is. If he wants us to believe that one man can create a city complete with monorails and elevated buildings, never mind what else existed in the place, then somehow, in the realm of things, it just must be, because he breathes life into all of it. Someone mentioned in the letters page that Steranko turned what once was a mediocre realistic strip into one of the realm of imagination; and yet, when Steranko took the reins of SHIELD I had just the opposite opinion: that it was more realistic than ever before, that the people in this organization were no more than sharp examples of all different types of personalities, and viewpoints. There were so many great examples of Steranko's artistic genius in this issue that they more than covered the few weak links in the plot, and I'll even forgive that he didn't make it a two part story. The splash panel was superb. Keep the hidden titles or use them in different variations. And thanks cannot be given enough for that splendid, superbly done interlude between Nick Fury and Val. More than mere images were conveyed from that wordless scene than any amount of words could have said. The entire scene, the mood, the people, and the situation were all subtly woven into the reader's knowledge. And Steranko has proved that he is a master of resolving the situations which he throws his characters into. Continue to weave ordinary people, if Brad Carter and Tiff are ordinary, into the scheme of things, they add so much more to the story. For some it just might be the end, but for SHIELD, Steranko has proved that this is the beginning.

Donald McGregor, 43 Wildwood Ave.
Providence, Rhode Island 02907

Better believe it, Don baby . . . this is only the beginning! Starting with the premier ish of Shield, Steranko began his new style of writing! . . . We predict it will revolutionize the whole comic industry and if that isn't a beginning . . . what is?

NEXT

WHO ARE THE OTHERS??

THEN, ALL EYES
FOCUS ON THE
BLACK-CLAD
FIGURE **EMER-
GING** FROM THE
CLEAR CYLINDRI-
CAL SHAFT
ACROSS THE
CHAMBER
FLOOR...
A FIGURE BEARING
THE NUMBER
THIRTEEN... A
FIGURE THOUGHT
TO BE SHIELD'S
PERFECTED **LIFE
MODEL DECOY**...
YET, INSTEAD, THROUGH
A BIZARRE SET OF
CIRCUMSTANCES,
COLONEL NICK FURY
FINDS THAT HE HAS
REPLACED THE TEST
LMD, AND NOW FACES
THE ROOM OF A
THOUSAND AND ONE
TRAPS WHERE **UN-
KNOWN DEATH**
LIES IN WAIT BEYOND
EVERY FOOTFALL...

